CLAIMS

1.   A contents acquisition method comprising:

a file request information transmission step of transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

a file reception step of receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

a temporary storage step of temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received in the file reception step;

a determination step of determining if contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

a contents request information transmission step of transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined in the determination step that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

a data reception step of receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

a contents identification information temporary storage step of temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined in the determination step that the contents

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identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed in the data reception step;

an attributes request information transmission step of transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

an attributes information reception step of receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information;

a contents attributes identification information temporary storage step of temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information in the attributes information reception step;

a registration step of registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

a temporarily stored information deletion step of deleting the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database.

2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein
      the contents attributes information includes
      right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein

the contents attributes information includes

right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein

the contents attributes information includes

right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising

an acquisition start information temporary storage step of temporarily storing acquisition start information for starting acquisition of the contents data before the file request information transmission step.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

an acquisition start information temporary in-storage determination step of determining if the acquisition start information is temporarily stored or not when a communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection with the external apparatus;

an in-storage contents identification information temporary storage determination step of determining if the in-storage contents identification information is temporarily stored or not when it is determined that the acquisition start information is temporarily stored in the acquisition start information temporary in-storage determination step; and

a restoration time attributes request information transmission step of transmitting the attribute request information reacquiring the contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data that correspond to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address when it is determined that the in-storage contents identification information is temporarily stored in the in-storage contents identification information temporary storage determination step.

7.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

an acquisition/use file deletion step of deleting the acquisition/use file when the communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection with the external apparatus;

a file re-request information transmission step of transmitting a file re-request information requesting the updated acquisition/use file;

a file re-reception step of receiving the updated acquisition/use file corresponding to the file re-request information;

an updated file temporary storage step of temporarily storing the received updated acquisition/use file; and

a contents identification information temporary in-storage determination step of determining if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the updated acquisition/use file is temporarily stored or not, wherein

the contents request information transmission step being adapted to transmit the contents request information requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification

information to the external apparatus when it is determined that the contents identification information is not temporarily stored in the contents identification information temporary in-storage determination step.

8.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising

a contents attributes identification information temporary in-storage determination step of determining if the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents identification information is temporarily stored on not when it is determined that the contents identification information is temporarily stored in the contents identification information temporary in-storage determination step, wherein

the attributes request information transmission step being adapted to transmit the attributes request information requesting the contents attributes information corresponding to the contents attributes identification information to the attributes information providing address contained in the updated acquisition/use file when it is determined that the contents attributes identification information is not temporarily stored in the contents attributes identification information temporary in-storage determination step.

9.   The method according to claim 8, further comprising

a registration determination step of determining if the contents attributes information corresponding to the contents attribute identification information and the contents data corresponding to the contents attributes information are registered in the database or not when it is determined that the

contents attributes identification information is temporarily stored in the contents attributes identification information temporary in-storage determination step, wherein

the registration step being adapted to register the contents data and the contents attributes information when it is determined that the contents data and the contents attributes information are not registered in the database in the registration determination step.

10. An attributes information providing method to be used in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the method comprising:

an attributes request information reception step of receiving attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; and

an attributes information transmission step of externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents

data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information received in the attributes request information reception step.

11.   The method according to claim 10, wherein
the contents attributes information includes
right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

12.   The method according to claim 11, wherein
the contents attributes information includes
the right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

13.   The method according to claim 10, wherein
the contents attributes information includes
right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

14.   The method according to claim 10, further comprising
a restoration time attributes request information reception step of receiving the attributes request information transmitted when the acquisition start information is temporarily stored and the in-storage contents identification information of the contents data is temporarily stored at the time when the communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection although the acquisition start information indicating the start of acquisition of the contents data to the external apparatus is temporarily stored and the contents data and the contents attributes

information corresponding to the contents data are registered in the database before temporarily storing the acquisition/use file but subsequently the acquisition start information and the in-storage contents identification information that are temporarily stored are erased.

15.   A contents acquisition apparatus comprising:

file request information transmission means for transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

file reception means for receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information transmitted by the file request information transmission means;

temporary storage means for temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received by the file reception means;

determination means for determining if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

contents request information transmission means for transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined by the determination means that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

data reception means for receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting

the contents request information to the external apparatus by the contents request information transmission means;

contents identification information temporary storage means for temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined by the determination means that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed by the data reception means;

attributes request information transmission means for transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information by the contents identification information temporary storage means is completed;

attributes information reception means for receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information transmitted by the attributes request information transmission means;

contents attributes identification information temporary storage means for temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information by the attributes information reception means;

registration means for registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

temporarily stored information deletion means for deleting the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database.

16.   An attributes information providing apparatus to be used in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file containing the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the apparatus comprising:

attributes request information reception means for receiving attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; and

attributes information transmission means for externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information received by the attributes request information reception means.

17.   A contents acquisition program for causing an information processing apparatus to execute:

a file request information transmission step of transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

a file reception step of receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

a temporary storage step of temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received in the file reception step;

a determination step of determining if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

a contents request information transmission step of transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined in the determination step that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

a data reception step of receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

a contents identification information temporary storage step of temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined in the determination step that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when

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the reception of the contents data is completed in the data reception step;

an attributes request information transmission step of transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

an attributes information reception step of receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information;

a contents attributes identification information temporary storage step of temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information in the attributes information reception step;

a registration step of registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; and

a temporarily stored information deletion step of deleting the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database.

18. An attributes information providing program to be executed by an information processing apparatus in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in

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the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed before externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file containing the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and after requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the program comprising:

an attributes request information reception step of receiving attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; and

an attributes information transmission step of externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information received in the attributes request information reception step.